### **Inappropriate Use of Nursing Bottles (AK 49-USDA 419)**

### Explain to Participant

You're enrolled in the WIC program today because you have been giving your infant /child bottles in a way that may harm your baby/child. Bottles should only be used to feed mother's milk or iron-fortified formula – no other food or beverages should ever be served to a baby in a bottle. Babies should always be held when they are fed from a bottle. Propping a baby with a bottle is dangerous. It may lead to ear infections, choking on liquids flowing into the lungs, or tooth decay. If your baby is older than 12 – 14 months, the baby should no longer use a bottle; using a bottle for longer than 12 months may give your baby cavities. Using beverages in the bottle, such as soda, fruit juice, or sweetened iced-tea may also lead to tooth decay.

#### Goal

The goal is to reduce the risks of tooth decay, ear infections, inadequate/excess nutrient intake, and lack of appropriate nurturing in the feeding relationship.

## Suggestions for Reducing Risk

Follow the recommendations of your WIC counselor regarding weaning from the bottle.

Prior to weaning, infants should be held whenever they are given a bottle and formula or mothers milk are the only beverages that should be provided in the bottle. Never provide sweetened beverages or cereal in a bottle.

Begin introducing a cup with beverages around 6 months.

In order to prevent tooth decay, do not allow the infant/child to sleep with a bottle in the bed.

#### **Nutrition Education Material Suggested**

Explain the nutrition education material suggested.

Keep Your Baby Smiling; We can Stop Baby Bottle Tooth Decay; FROM BOTTLE TO CUP/WEANING YOUR NURSING BABY;

Ready, Set, Feed Me!

### **Explain Applicable WIC Foods**

WIC Foods	<b>Nutrients Provided</b>
Milk	Calcium, Vitamin A, Protein
Cheese	Calcium, Vitamin A, Protein
Eggs	Protein
Beans or Peanut Butter	Protein, Iron
WIC Juice	Vitamin C
Cereal	Iron
Iron Fortified Infant Formula	Protein, Calcium, Vitamins A & C, Iron
Iron Fortified Infant Cereal	Iron

# Explain What the WIC Nutrients Can Do for You!

**Calcium** Keeps bones healthy. Helps muscles work. Helps blood clot.

Helps control blood pressure.

**Iron** Carries oxygen in your blood to your muscles. Prevents

anemia. Prevents infection.

**Vitamin C** Helps your body heal. Helps fight infections. Helps your body

use the iron in the foods you eat.

**Protein** Makes up part of every cell in your body. Builds and maintains

muscles and other tissues.

**Vitamin A** Helps keep your skin healthy and smooth. Helps you see at

**Materials with More Information** 

night.

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